

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on April 25, 2008. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) for being anticipated by Cravey (US 6362604).

Claims 2-3, 6-14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cravey in view of von Bergmann (US 6999492).

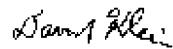
Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, but for the purposes of expedited allowance amendments have been made.

Applicant wishes to express his gratitude to the Examiner for the courtesy of fax and email communication on July 23-24, 2008. In the communication an amendment to claim 6 was proposed, to which the Examiner stated the “proposed amendment is sufficient to overcome the current rejection, and would be allowable in view of the current prior art, however all new limitations are subject to an updated search and consideration.”

Accordingly, an RCE has been submitted herewith with the amendment. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the amendment to claim 6. Claims 13-14 have been canceled.

Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 15-16 are accordingly deemed allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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